

Approved For Release 2003/08/10 : CIA-RDP82-00485X005100390002-5

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

27 JUN 50

COUNTRY Iran/USSR

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Soviet Encroachment on
Iranian Territory
25X1A

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. See below

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Prior to April 1950

1. The Soviets have stationed border border troops in Iranian territory* in the triangle formed by a line extending approximately 28 miles along the Atrek River, one side facing southwest from Zalif (E54°05" N37°27") to Naftli Ja (E54°07" N37°18"), extending approximately ten miles, and the other side facing southeast from Naftli Ja to Tangueli (E54°25" N37°27"), extending approximately 28 miles. In this area troops equivalent to approximately one regiment are stationed at the following eight principal border guard posts: Gudri, Qara Baba, Doshangher, Qara Daghuish, Gorbangaz, Senger Tepe (E54°17" N37°20"), Naftli Ja, Tashchabad (E54°07" N37°14"). Headquarters are at Zalif.
2. [redacted] during the rainy season the lower Atrek (downstream from Tangueli) is subject to floods which form a corridor of about 3½ miles on each side of the river. This corridor is impassable to military vehicles. By controlling the triangle described in Paragraph 1, the Soviets also control military bases on the Iranian side of the river, beyond the flood waters and usable throughout the entire year.
3. Regarding the Soviet-Iranian border in Khorassan, [redacted] at many points, Soviet border guards over a period of years have pushed forward the "de facto" line, and have built their own posts and installations on dominating heights or ridges on Iranian territory.

13 June 1980

4. The Soviets now occupy a strip of Iranian territory along Hari Rud (E61°05") to an unspecified depth and front.*** This encroachment has followed the gradual westward shifting of the river bed over a period of many years. Soviet border posts on the east bank of the river have gradually moved westward, following the shift of the river. No border incident has taken place in this area during the past two years.

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[illegible]

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Approved For Release 2003/08/11 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005100380002-5

Document No. _____
 No Change in Class.
☒ Declassified
 Class. Changed To: TS S
 Auth: HP 10-2
 2-00457 R095100380002-5
 Date: 3-28-79

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* [] Comment. [] the Russo-Persian agreement of 1881 named the Atrek River as the boundary between the two countries in the Gurgan region. In 1882 the Russians built, in Persian territory, the Musa Khan Canal which passed from Bend Tepe (presumably in the vicinity of Tangueli), south of the nomad camp of Musa Khan (E54°35" N37°27"), to Senger Tepe. Recently, when the Iranian Army attempted to determine its claim to territory south of the Atrek River, it met with successful opposition by Soviet troops at Senger Tepe, Naftli Ja, and Tazehabad. [] [] probably referred to the border incidents of the spring of 1949.

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** [] Comment. Exact extent of encroachment will be supplied later.

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